

1, 14, 21, 30, 37, 53, 61, 63, 74, 85 and 87 being independent. Independent Claims 37, 53 and 61 are amended to incorporate the feature that is the subject matter of Claims 40 and 62. Accordingly, Claims 40 and 62 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claim 41 is amended to depend from Claim 37 instead of Claim 40. Claims 85-89 are newly added. It is submitted that support for these claims may be found throughout the originally-filed specification and drawings, and that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 1, 4-14, 17-22, 25-30, 33-35 and 63-84 are allowed and that Claims 40-52 and 62 are considered to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 37, 39, 53 and 55-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Gotoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,027,196). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. The U.S. application that ultimately was issued as the Gotoh et al. '196 patent was filed on December 30, 1993. The Japanese applications from which the present application claims priority were filed earlier than that date, namely, on May 24, 1993 and June 28,

1993. Certified copies of these priority documents (JP 5-121480 and JP 5-157582) were filed on October 20, 1994 in parent application no. 08/248,513. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn. Applicants will undertake to file English translations of the priority documents in the near future.

Claims 37, 39, 53 and 55-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Matsumoto et al. in view of Sekiya. Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the amendment herein of independent Claims 37, 53 and 61.

Accordingly, Applicants conclude that the present invention is patentable over the cited references, whether taken singly or in the combination proposed by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in each of independent Claims 1, 14, 21, 30, 37, 53, 61, 63, 74, 85 and 87, is patentably defined over the cited references.


The dependent claims likewise should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in

their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants request withdrawal of all outstanding rejections, and submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

37. (Twice Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus which forms an image on a recording medium by using a plurality of ink discharge means discharging a plurality of inks, wherein said plural ink discharge means correspond to the plurality of inks, the plurality of inks are inks having different dye densities with respect to a plurality of colors, the plurality of inks are contained in a plurality of ink containers and each of the plurality of ink containers corresponds to a different color of ink, each of the ink containers containing a plurality of inks having different dye densities of a same color series;

wherein said plural inks having different dye densities in ink have different penetrabilities on a recording medium.

40. Cancelled.

41. (Twice Amended) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 37 [40], wherein said plural inks with

different dye densities in ink have different component ratios of surfactant in ink.

53. (Twice Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus, containing a plurality of inks and comprising a plurality of recording heads equipped with a plurality of ink discharge means, which discharge ink through discharge ports, and forming an image on a recording medium by discharging the ink through a plurality of discharge ports of said recording heads, wherein said plural recording heads correspond to the plurality of inks, the plurality of inks are inks having different dye densities with respect to a plurality of colors, the plurality of inks are contained in a plurality of ink containers and each of the plurality of ink containers corresponds to a different color of ink, each of the ink containers containing a plurality of inks having different dye densities of a same color series;

wherein said plural inks having different dye densities in ink have different penetrabilities on a recording medium.

61. (Twice Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus containing a plurality of inks and comprising a plurality of

62. Cancelled

recording heads equipped with a plurality of ink discharge means for discharging inks and forming an image on a recording medium by discharging the inks from a plurality of discharge ports of said recording heads, wherein said plural recording heads correspond to the plurality of inks having different color materials, the plural discharge ports of said recording heads comprising a plurality of discharge port trains corresponding to the plural inks having different dye densities, the plurality of inks are inks having different dye densities with respect to a plurality of colors, the plurality of inks are contained in a plurality of ink containers and each of the plurality of ink containers corresponds to a different color of ink, each of the ink containers containing a plurality of inks having different dye densities of a same color series?

wherein said plural inks having different dye densities in ink have different penetrabilities on a recording medium.